



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has recently released the Final Rule guiding the implementation of the HITECH Act, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The HITECH Act provided for incentive payments to healthcare providers that can demonstrate "meaningful use" of a "certified" electronic health record (EHR) over the course of the next several years.

Varian partnered with other oncology EMR vendors to provide CMS with input regarding the specific needs of the oncology community during the rule making process, and we were pleased to see that the Final Rule incorporated a number of our suggestions. The Final Rule focuses primarily on requirements for Stage 1 of the new program. Rules that cover the more stringent parameters for compliance with Stages 2 and 3 of the program will be announced sometime in the future.

Varian is in the process of updating the ARIA® oncology information system for medical and radiation oncology so that they meet all ARRA/HITECH requirements, and plans to seek accreditation for Stage 1 meaningful use in 2011.

In addition, Varian is working on programs to help customers implement the ARIA oncology information system in a way that enables providers to achieve meaningful use. Look for assistance from Varian in the following areas:

- ARIA upgrades that close any gaps in functionality;
- Upgrade assistance and training in how new ARIA features can support efforts to comply with the meaningful use guidelines;
- A variety of consulting services including gap analysis, implementation of existing and new ARIA features based on the meaningful use guidelines, process re-design, and workflow optimization; and
- Use of ARIA reports designed to monitor and measure compliance with EHR meaningful use criteria.

**Varian is committed to meeting the EHR certification criteria so that our customers can use our products to qualify for the HITECH Act incentive payments. Varian will seek certification for its ARIA products in 2011.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dow R. Wilson".

**DOW R. WILSON**  
President, Oncology Systems  
Corporate Executive Vice President